

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

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TO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 085316

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BEXP, GN, US, EMIN, EINV

SUBJECT: GUINEAN MINISTER OF MINES CALL ON AF ASSISTANT
SECRETARY

REF: CONAKRY 541

1. GUINEAN MINISTER OF MINES KABASSAN KEITA, ACCOMPANIED BY GUINEAN AMBASSADOR KOUROUMA, CALLED ON AF ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFEELE APRIL 13. AF/W DIRECTOR AND ALTERNATE COUNTRY OFFICER ATTENDED MEETING.
2. RESPONDING TO SCHAUFEELE'S WELCOME, MINISTER KEITA SAID THAT IN THE NAME OF THE PEOPLE OF GUINEA, ITS GOVERNMENT, AND ITS CHIEF OF STATE, HE WISHED TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR THE FRIENDSHIP, COOPERATION, AND HELP RECEIVED FROM THE US. KEITA SAID HIS MISSION WAS THREEFOLD: 1) TO DISCUSS THE KAMSAR INFRASTRUCTURE
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LOAN FOR THE COMPAGNIE DE BAUXITE DE GUINEE (CBG) WITH THE WORLD BANK; 2) TO MEET WITH THE CBG'S AMERICAN PARTNERS ALCOA AND MARTIN-MARRETTA; AND 3) TO SOLICIT THE INTEREST OF U.S. STEEL IN THE MIFERGUI-NIMBA IRON ORE PROJECT.

3. REFERRING TO HIS PLANS TO VISIT INSTALLATIONS OF

HALCO/ALCOA IN PITTSBURG AND MARTIN-MARETTA IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS, KEITA SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO CONTINUED COOPERATION WITH THE AMERICAN FIRMS, SINCE THE GOVERNMENT OF GUINEA PLACED HIGH VALUE ON THE MUTUAL RELATIONSHIP WHICH HAD BEEN DEVELOPED.

4. THANKING THE MINISTER FOR HIS EXPRESSION OF FRIENDSHIP AND DESCRIPTION OF HIS MISSION, SCHAUFLELE NOTED THAT VISITS TO HALCO/ALCOA AND TO MARTIN-MARETTA WOULD BE VERY USEFUL IN REENFORCING THE COOPERATIVE TIES ALREADY EXISTING. HE ADDED THAT SOME MIGHT BE SURPRISED AT HOW WELL THIS COOPERATION BY "CAPITALISTIC" AMERICAN PRIVATE ENTERPRISE WITH A SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT WAS WORKING. KEITA AGREED, AND REMARKED THAT THE COOPERATION IS SUPPORTED BY MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING. IN RESPONSE TO SCHAUFLELE'S QUESTION, KEITA SAID THE IBRD HAD ALREADY BEEN IN TOUCH WITH US STEEL REGARDING THE MIFERGUI-NIMBA IRON ORE PROJECT, FOR WHICH KAISER HAD DONE THE FEASIBILITY AND ENGINEERING STUDY.

5. SCHAUFLELE INFORMED THE GUINEANS THAT, AS THEY KNEW, WE HOPE FOR IMPROVED BILATERAL RELATIONS, AND THE NEW US ADMINISTRATION HAS MADE CLEAR THAT IT WISHES TO PROMOTE BETTER RELATIONS WORLDWIDE. ALTHOUGH OUR PRIVATE COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF GUINEA IS GOING WELL, WE DO HAVE SOME BILATERAL PROBLEMS BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS. THE GOALS WE SHARE, HOWEVER, ENABLE US TO FIND WAYS TO RESOLVE THESE DIFFERENCES. SCHAUFLELE
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NOTED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAD MENTIONED SOME OF THESE PROBLEMS TO AMB. KOUROUMA, SUCH AS THE SOVIET FLIGHTS, AND HAD UNDERLINED OUR HOPE TO WORK FOR IMPROVED US-GUINEAN COOPERATION.

6. NOTING THAT KEITA HAD LED THE GUINEA DELEGATION TO BENIN AFTER THE JANUARY 16 ATTACK ON COTONOU, SCHAUFLELE ASKED IF KEITA WOULD SHARE HIS VIEWS ABOUT THE SITUATION THERE. KEITA RESPONDED THAT HIS MISSION HAD BEEN ONE TO DEMONSTRATE SOLIDARITY WITH BENIN.

7. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING, SCHAUFLELE SAID THAT HE HOPED THE REMAINDER OF KEITA'S VISIT WOULD GO AS WELL AS IT HAD UP TO THIS POINT, AND OFFERED ANY ASSISTANCE THAT KEITA MIGHT REQUIRE. SCHAUFLELE NOTED THAT SINCE OUR INTERESTS CANNOT ALWAYS COINCIDE, CONTINUED DIALOGUE WILL ALWAYS BE NECESSARY. THE GUINEANS AGREED, AND AMBASSADOR KOUROUMA CLOSED BY INVITING SCHAUFLELE, IN THE NAME OF GUINEA'S PARTY, TO VISIT GUINEA IN ORDER TO SEE THE SITUATION FIRST HAND

AND TALK TO GUINEANS IN ORDER TO DEVELOP EVEN GREATER UNDERSTANDING.

8. FYI. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION AMBASSADOR KOUROUMA, IN RESPONSE TO SCHAUFEELE'S QUESTION, SAID THAT FORMER AMBASSADOR BAH IS NOW IN THE DOMAINE OF CULTURE AND EDUCATION. THE ONLY REFERENCE TO PL 480 WAS AMBASSADOR KOUROUMA'S COMMENT, IN RESPONSE TO SCHAUFEELE'S QUESTION, THAT HE HAD BEEN IN US TWICE, THE LAST TIME TO DISCUSS PL 480, WHICH SCHAUFEELE THEN CHARACTERIZED AS A "THORNY" PROBLEM. END FYI.

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